

FARM AND GARDEN.

Coloring Butter.

When yellow colored butter is desired in winter without the use of anatto, which is not a desirable commodity in butter, carrots may be substituted. Take two large-sized carrots, clean thoroughly, then with the knife scrape off the yellow exterior, leaving the white part, soak the yellow part in boiling milk for ten or fifteen minutes. Strain boiling milk into the cream; this gives the cream the desired temperature, colors it nicely, and adds to the sweetness of the butter.

Fruit Trees Most Suitable for Planting.

Concerning the proper ages of fruit trees for planting, an experienced horticulturist says that peaches should always be transplanted at one year from the bud; plums, cherries or dwarf pears at two years from the bud or graft; for standard apples or pears, good thrifty plants, five or six feet high and not over two or three years of age. The best seasons for transplanting are from the first of October until December, and from the first of March until May. Older trees especially if they are taken up carefully and planted in well prepared soil may do very well but on the whole the ages above mentioned are the best suited for planting.

The Ramie Plant.

The Liverpool correspondent of the New York Shipping and Commercial List, directs attention to the qualities and value of the new vegetable product called Ramie, which is attracting considerable attention in the Southwest. He sends that paper samples of the fibre, and also of the cloth made from it. The fibre is apparently much finer and stronger than the best flax, and, after the cleansing process, is said to become very soft and white, taking colors as readily as the finest wool or silk. The samples of cloth, made entirely from the Ramie, resemble the best grades of poplin or silk, in their strength, texture and brilliancy. We know too little as yet of the Ramie plant in this country, however, to estimate the effect of its introduction as a branch of agricultural industry. It is claimed that it is well adapted to withstand the Southern climate and other influences which have so important an effect on the production of cotton. Should results justify the expectations, this new product may take the place of cotton, in some sections, and thus supply any deficiency in the great staple of the South. The New Orleans Bulletin says:

"Mr. J. Buckner has shown us samples of the Ramie dressed for use, and also of the cloth, of which we have noticed similar specimens. There is a deep interest taken in the culture and manufacture of this valuable plant. If the South can produce a textile fabric with the advantages of the cotton, and the separation of the fibre from the wood of the plant is easily accomplished. Whether or not its culture will prove as profitable as that of cotton is yet undetermined."

The Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate.

"A small quantity of the plant has been raised from roots planted last spring in this vicinity. Some of the stalks were green and soft. There is no question but that the Ramie will produce abundantly in this climate, and that the separation of the fibre from the wood of the plant is easily accomplished. Whether or not its culture will prove as profitable as that of cotton is yet undetermined."

For Truck.

value of fertilizer. It is difficult to comprehend the idea, that at any period within the last century it was possible for men, engaged in the cultivation of the soil, not to have learned the true importance of manures. We can readily understand how farmers, residing remote from cities or points where manures are purchasable, are from necessity compelled to stultify their soils, unless the products of their barn yards are sufficient to keep them in a state of profitable productivity, but we fail to comprehend the reason why farmers residing within easy and convenient reach of abundant supplies of manures absolutely refuse to avail themselves of these facilities for enriching their soils and securing remunerative crops. Happily this great error is becoming less prevalent. There is a growing disposition to adopt the general use of manure, which in its general sense means profitable manuring.

We have before us a work recently published by Peter Henderson, of New York, entitled "Gardening for Profit," and a very useful book it is, especially to the market gardener. Mr. H. is a practical gardener, long and favorably known in New York and vicinity. His statements, therefore, in regard to the quantity of manures used by the New York truck growers, although almost exceeding credibility, may be depended upon. Our readers will be less open their eyes, when we tell them, on Mr. H.'s authority, that the regular annual application of manures to his truck plantations, ranges from 50 to 100 tons per acre. This is of course stable manure or rich compost. Of horse dung he applies at the rate of 2,000 pounds per acre to his crop of cabbage and cauliflower. Of Peruvian guano 1,200 pounds were applied to the acre, the comparative results being greatly in favor of the bone dust.

Mr. Henderson states another fact in regard to manures, which is important. He urges an alteration of kinds, his own practical experience demonstrating beyond the question of a doubt, the great advantage resulting from the adoption of this method.

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Our Agents.

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